



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900

Boston, MA 02114-2119

Mitt Romney
GOVERNOR

Kerry Healey
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Stephen R. Pritchard
SECRETARY

Tel: (617) 626-1000
Fax: (617) 626-1181
<http://www.mass.gov/envir>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 21, 2005

CONTACTS:

Joe Ferson, EOE
(617) 626-1119

**EOEA SECRETARY PRITCHARD AWARDS \$665,130
TO AID WATER SUPPLY PROTECTION**

Four community water suppliers given grants for land acquisition

Stephen R. Pritchard, Secretary of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) today announced the following towns and water supply districts have received drinking water supply protection grants for fiscal year 2006:

- The town of Cohasset (\$387,400) for the acquisition of 44 acres located entirely within the surface water protection area of the town's drinking water supply; the parcels also abut *Wompatuck State Park*;
- The town of Marshfield (\$183,063) for the acquisition of 7.9 acres located entirely within the recharge area of the town's drinking water wells;
- The town of Reading (\$16,167) for the acquisition of 10.4 acres located entirely within the recharge area of the town's drinking water wells; the parcel also abuts the *Town Forest*;
- Wareham Fire District (\$78,500) for the acquisition of 7 acres located entirely within the recharge area of the town's drinking water wells; the parcel also abuts *Myles Standish State Forest*.

"Local water suppliers in Massachusetts are in a position to recognize which parcels of land are important to protecting the public's water supply," Pritchard said. "EOEA is in a position to recognize and support those communities that apply to us under this program when these rare opportunities present themselves."

Each of these four grants requires the recipient to provide an equal amount of funding to complete the project. All parcels for which assistance is provided through this grant program must be open to the general public for appropriate outdoor/recreational use and protected open space as specified under Article 97 of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Drinking Water Supply Protection grants provide financial assistance to municipalities to protect and actively maintain key parcels of land believed critical to protecting current and future drinking water supplies. In addition to these grants, Secretary Pritchard announced a second round of these grants will be awarded in early 2006, and that the application deadline for this round is January 11, 2006.

“I believe these land acquisitions will bring countless benefits to the communities and the Commonwealth, and I look forward to watching the exciting developments made possible by these and future grants,” Pritchard added.

Some of the criteria by which applications are judged include the parcel’s importance in protecting a current or future surface or groundwater drinking water supply; the necessity of the acquisition to avert a potential threat of development or pollution; and the percentage of the water supply that will be protected with the proposed acquisition..

Last year (the first year this grant was offered) EOEA awarded approximately \$3M in Drinking Water Grants to 10 communities to protect 770 acres of land. Funding for the grant program comes from the 2002 Environmental Bond Bill.

#